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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

JUNE 03, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for June 03, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Radikal: PKK-KADEK militants ambushed a jandarma team patrolling in rural Eruh of Siirt the previous night. As a result of ensuing clashes, three soldiers were wounded while one PKK-KADEK militant was killed. The jandarma undertook a large-scale operation in the region.

3. Milli Gazete/Hurriyet/Milliyet/Turkiye: Bingol Governor Huseyin Avni Cos announced at a press meeting that seven of eight persons detained on charges of "assisting and harboring the PKK/KADEK terror organization" were ordered held by the court. Governor Cos reminded that PKK/KADEK militants had opened gunfire on a military vehicle on patrol in Bingol and had wounded eight soldiers. Cos said one PKK militant was killed in the ensuing clashes, but his corpse was taken by the militants. Governor Cos said, as a result of large-scale operations by the security forces in the region, eight suspects, including two village headmen, were arrested. Milliyet reported that security forces launching an operation in Kocbas village in Diyarbakir had seized one rocket launcher and one hand-grenade that belonged to PKK/KADEK organization.

4. Milli Gazete: Police teams from Smuggling and Organized Crimes Department of Diyarbakir's Security Directorate seized nine kilos of heroin in Diyarbakir. In connection with the drugs, two persons were ordered held by the court while the police undertook a large-scale investigation.

5. Bolge: Based upon a tip, jandarma teams from Gaziantep seized assorted quantities of hemp in Sehirkamil and Nizip districts. While the hemp was burned, jandarma detained four suspects.

6. Evrensel: A picnic organized by Democratic Students Movement from Inonu University of Malatya was thwarted by jandarma. Jandarma from Akcadag Jandarma Command searched students coming to the picnic area in Sultansuyu. The jandarma had obtained a warrant of search from the court prior the students' arrival at the picnic ground. They detained one student and seized the books the students had brought in order to sell. Three students were wounded as they tried to prevent a colleague from being arrested.

ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

7. Sabah: As the peshmergain Northern Iraq increased the dinar's rate of exchange against the USD arbitrarily, truckers carrying goods from Turkey to Iraq went on a strike for three days. The truckers started carrying goods to Iraq again only after the authorities resolved the issue. The ROE was 20 Iraqi dinars to USD 1.00 until a week ago, but because of a vacuum of authority, the peshmerga charged 3.50 Iraqi dinars to USD 1.00. As a result of the arbitrary application, the Iraqis increased the transit fee to 120 US dollars. After the truckers' strike, the transit fee was dropped to 20 US dollars. Sirnak Deputy

Governor Resul Celik said only Turkish truckers passing from Habur border gate were exposed to such an application which aimed to make the trade from Turkey difficult.

HOLTZ